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DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92037

March 7, 1968

Mr. Jim Garrison
4600 Owens Blvd.
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Jim:

Lately I've been working on a theory that I think clarifies the Second Oswald problem. I wonder how it fits with what you now know about the case.

Nagell has constantly claimed that the assassination was planned for September 26th. All of Nagell's actions in mid-September 1963 seem to point to some drastic turning point. He sent a letter to J. Edgar Hoover on the 16th or 17th. The bank episode took place on the 20th, followed by his insistence on telling the FBI about the impending assassination. The second Oswald travel in Wisconsin at this time is also suggestive.

If one takes the 26th seriously, and then examines Oswald's movements from the 24th to the 27th, as well as Kennedy's and the world's there seems to be something startling involved, and an explanation of the 2nd Oswald activities seems clear.

(1) Ferrie was apparently in Cuba in early September. (See Sciambra memo. The more I think about it, the more important the memo seems to me in terms of indicting Ferrie's trip to Cuba, the intimate relation of Ferrie and Oswald, and Russo's involvement with Ferrie.)

(2) The meeting of Shaw, Ferrie, Oswald at Ferrie's took place probably on September 16th.

(3) Nagell sends letter to Hoover on 16th or 17th. (Nagell given order to assassinate Oswald.)

(4) Oswald gets Mexican visa on the 17th.

(5) Oswald last seen in New Orleans on the night of the 24th.

(6) Oswald leaves New Orleans morning of 25th.

(7) Oswald at Selective Service office in Austin afternoon of 25th. He is seen in restaurant later that afternoon in Austin.

(8) Oswald at Mrs. Odio's around 7-8 p.m. on the 25th in Dallas.

(9) Oswald calls Mrs. Twiford at 9:50 p.m. Houston on the 25th.

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(10) The Warren Commission was unable to find anyone who saw Oswald between New Orleans and Houston. No one on the only possible bus saw him. He did nothing to draw attention to himself.

(11) The Twiford episode is ridiculous on the Warren Commission account. If Oswald was going to Cuba, why should he contact Twiford to discuss the Socialist Labor Party.

(12) Oswald twice tells Mrs. Twiford that he is about to fly to Mexico. He tells her he wants to come over for a couple of hours, and tells her he wants to know how they have his address.

(13) Twiford was probably the only person outside of the conspiracy in Houston who knew that Oswald existed.

(14) Oswald was noticed in the Houston bus terminal around 2 a.m. Sept. 26th.

(15) Oswald draws McFarland's attention on the bus on the morning of Sept. 26th. He tells McFarland he is going to Mexico and Cuba.

(16) In the ^{evening} ~~afternoon~~ on the 26th, Oswald talks to the girls on the bus. He shows them his old passport, stresses that he has been in Russia, and that they should stay at the Hotel Cuba.

(17) Oswald goes to Cuban and Russian embassies in Mexico City on the 27th, and is carrying evidence of his pro-Castro activities.

(18) He goes again on the 28th.

(19) Oswald drops out of sight until Oct. 2, when he leaves for Dallas.

(20) Osborne (from a nutty church) sits next to Oswald on the 26th. Osborne returns on Oct. 1, goes to New Orleans, then flies to England where he had not been for years, and gives a false story to account for why he is there.

On the basis of all of this, I offer the following hypothesis: the assassination was planned for the 26th, and the evidence will point to Oswald. On Sept. 25th, Oswald was flown from New Orleans to Austin, and went to an official office to make his presence known. He stays long enough so that he will be remembered the next day. Then he is flown to Dallas. The Odio affair is intended for him to impress himself on Mrs. Odio. Leopoldo's call the next day was to make sure she noticed him. The fake character of the "Cubans" was probably to make Mrs. Odio think that they really were Castroites. After the Odio visit, Oswald was flown to Houston for the call to Twiford, probably from the Houston airport. The proposed visit to Twiford's was to establish that Oswald was really there. Oswald may, at the time, have thought he was going to fly on to Mexico City. Oswald has alerted Mrs. Donnelly in Austin that he has a dishonorable discharge (the use of the name "Harvey Oswald" prevents her from looking up the case. He has alerted Mrs. Odio that he is an ex-Marine, involved with Latins, and ready to kill JFK. He has alerted Mrs. Twiford that he is in Houston ready to leave for Mexico.

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It is then decided that Oswald should be clearly visible at the moment of the assassination - hence the bus ride to Mexico City. Also the bus ride is in keeping with his character, and compatible with a bus ride from New Orleans in case Oswald later has to deny his arrival in Austin and Dallas. (An error was made in calling Twiford too early. The problem of making the one Houston person who knew of his existence aware that he was there was probably too important. Oswald didn't dare call too late lest the Twifords be in bed.)

The assassination was planned during the day of the 26th, sometime after Leopoldo's call to Mrs. Odio. (I can't locate a passage which indicates when it occurred). Oswald made sure that McFarland and the girls knew who he was, and that Cuba was involved in his affairs. They would then provide Oswald with an alibi, and would lead the chase to Cuba. Oswald's job was to get as far as the Cuban and Russian embassies before the drama ended. Presumably after the assassination by second Oswald, it would have taken hours to make Oswald the suspect. When his name and picture appeared on television, Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. Odio and Mrs. Twiford would have reported to the FBI, thus leading the chase into Texas and Mexico. On the 27th, when the bus got to Mexico City, McFarland and the girls would have reported. Oswald's trail would lead up to the Cuban Embassy, and then would disappear. Since nothing happened (i.e., JFK was not killed), Oswald repeated his visit to the Cuban embassy on the 28th. Then he was told to lie low and so vanished for four days. Then he was recalled to Dallas. If the plot had worked, Oswald would have been chased. If he had been found, he could not have been held for the crime. By then, second Oswald would have been gone for good, and would have changed his appearance. Thus, the original double Oswald plot had Oswald and second Oswald in totally different parts of the country, and was completely involved with a Cuban dénouement.

When one looks at what JFK was doing at the time, the whole matter becomes more suggestive. Kennedy was on his most extensive tour since the 1960 campaign. On the 25th he spoke in Milford, Pa., Duluth, Minn., and Ashland, Wisc (10,000 people at that speech). On the 26th, he was all over the place speaking in public at Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Biglins, Montana; Great Falls, Mont., Grand Fork, No. Dakota; Hanford, Washington, and Salt Lake City, Utah. He was in public view more than he had been since the 1960 election campaign. (In a place like Jackson Hole anyone could walk around with a hunting rifle) providing plenty of target situations.

The big news of Sept. 26th was that Juan Bosch of the Dominican Republic was overthrown that day. Bosch was close to Kennedy. JFK regarded Bosch as his answer to Castro and the hope for Latin America. The ease of his overthrow smells of CIA. (Also remember our friend, Dr Mohrenschildt had gone to Haiti, apparently in a CIA capacity, in April 1963, and Haiti is adjoined to the Dominican Republic). Suppose the plan was to kill Kennedy, overthrow Bosch and force an invasion of Cuba in the search for Oswald. Then American policy in the Caribbean and Latin America would be radically changed all at once.

After the plan failed to go off, Oswald was sent to Dallas. Nagell no longer knew what was going on, hence when he was interviewed on November 19th, he made no mention of the assassination plot, since he probably thought it was over and done with. The plotters however regrouped in Dallas with Oswald, second Oswald, Hall, Seymour, Howard, etc. Up to the first week in November, the second Oswald appearances are all without mentioning his name. He apparently lived in Irving near the barber shop and Hutchison's grocery store, since he was seen around there. A new plot must have been hatched in early November. On Nov. 9th, a man in Miami knew the

Check Jack Ruby calls at this time

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plot. In rapid fire succession "Oswald clues" were laid in the furniture store, Greener's gun shop, Hutcheson's grocery store (where I think Hutcheson was shown. Oswald's CIA paycheck, \$200 less \$11 deductions for taxes and social security. Incidentally have you seen the message from Nagell that confirms that Oswald was a FBI informer with number 179?) Oswald's whereabouts are unknown for the night of Nov. 8, and then on the 9th he wrote the strange letter to the Russian Embassy and the Bogard affair occurred. This suggests a meeting was held Nov. 8 (In Plot and Politics it claims someone saw Oswald and Ruby together that night), and that a new detailed plot was hatched. This time Oswald is only connected with Russia in the prior episodes, so probably a different scenario was planned.

This hypothesis makes it possible to structure the events of late September and the November ones as parts of two different plots. The first group of second Oswald cases were really appearances of Lee Harvey Oswald which were to be remembered the next day, not two months later. Oswald's Mexico trip was immediately related to a plot, not a long run stage-setting for something else.

How does this strike you? Does it fit with what you know? One item that should be checkable is whether a private plane went from New Orleans to Austin to Dallas to Houston on September 25th to take Oswald to all of the incidents. (Of course, more than one plane might have been involved.)

From the data I've heard of lately it may be that "second Oswald" is a group of people rather than one individual. What do you think?

I think I'll publish something about the above hypothesis soon, unless you find all sorts of holes in it.

Hope all is going well. Best regards to your wife and children,

Yours,

Richard H. Popkin

P.S. Twiford flew from New Orleans to Houston on September 27th. His affidavit (11:179) gives no indication when he arrived in New Orleans. He just says that his boat, the S.S. Del Monte was docked there. Maybe he and Oswald met before Oswald left New Orleans and the call was a planned plant..

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I'll be gone from March 10-17.